

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Nebraska Bird Review

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union

3-2006

The Nebraska Bird Review (March 2006)- Whole Issue

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebbirdrev>



Part of the [Ornithology Commons](#), [Poultry or Avian Science Commons](#), and the [Zoology Commons](#)

"*The Nebraska Bird Review* (March 2006)- Whole Issue" (2006). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 297.

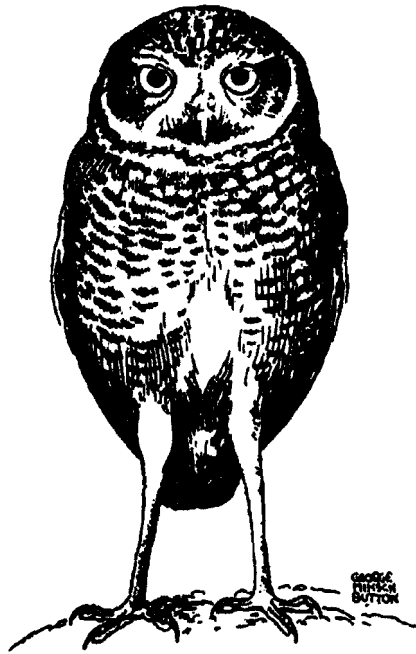
<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebbirdrev/297>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Nebraska Bird Review by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

The Nebraska Bird Review

A Magazine of Ornithology of the
Nebraska Region

Volume 74 March 2006 Number 1



Published by the
Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Inc.
Founded 1899

Janis M. Paseka, Editor
Stephen J. Dinsmore, Co-editor

SSSN 0028-1816

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union		Treasurer's Report		December 31, 2005	
	General Funds	Breeding Bird Atlas	Scholarship Fund	Endowment Fund	Grand Total
CHECKING					
Jan. 1, 2005 Balance - Checking	\$1,722.48	\$54.25	\$1,618.30		\$3,395.03
RECEIPTS					
Donations	26.68		137.00	125.00	288.68
Memberships	2,105.00				2,105.00
Subscriptions	405.00				405.00
Spring Meeting - Calamus 2005	2,541.05				2,541.05
Fall Meeting - Alma 2005	1,996.00				1,996.00
NE Breeding Bird Atlas		193.60			193.60
Sub-total Receipts					\$7,529.33
DISBURSEMENTS					
Spring Meeting - Calamus 2005	2,615.88				2,615.88
Fall Meeting - Alma 2005	1,877.00				1,877.00
NE Dept of Revenue - Sales Tax		1.84			1.84
NBR-Printing-V 72 #2,3,4;V 71 #3,4;V73 #1	3,377.62				3,377.62
Newsletter - Printing	253.91				253.91
Postage	526.40	10.60			537.00
Nebraska Game & Parks - field cards	120.00				120.00
NE Corporate Fee	20.00				20.00
Insurance	213.00				213.00

Move Scholarship to Savings						
Transfer to CD		206.41				0.00
Sub-total Disbursements						206.41
						\$9,222.66
Dec. 31, 2005 Balance - Checking		\$29.00			\$125.00	\$1,701.70
SAVINGS						
Jan. 1, 2005 Balance - Savings					\$10,000.00	\$20,076.67
Interest						388.38
Move Scholarship to Savings						0.00
Interest from Endowment					(392.41)	0.00
Principal Additions					1,570.00	1,570.00
Transfer to Endowment CD					(11,177.59)	(11,177.59)
Dec. 31, 2005 Balance - Savings					\$1,755.30	\$10,857.46
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT						
Jan. 1, 2005 Balance(corrected) - CDs		\$6,602.58			\$21,533.91	\$28,136.49
Principal Additions		206.41			11,177.59	11,384.00
Interest		148.66			818.80	967.46
Dec. 31, 2005 Balance - CDs		\$6,957.65			\$33,530.30	\$40,487.95
Maturity						
CD/Savings Annual Rates					2/21/06	
Endowment Principal					3.20%	
					\$32,997.00	
					Grand Total	\$53,047.11

WINTER FIELD REPORT, December 2005 to February 2006

Compiled by W. Ross Silcock
P.O. Box 57, Tabor, IA 51653
silcock@rosssilcock.com

INTRODUCTION

The traditional mid-summer and midwinter "windows" wherein migrants were rarely detected have closed markedly in the last few years. The midwinter window is closing; where it once was around 20 Dec-20 Feb it is now more like 5 Jan-10 Feb. Many waterfowl were found in midwinter this season, and migrants such as Blue-winged Teal and Sandhill Crane appeared very early this spring. Similarly early were Turkey Vulture and Lincoln's Sparrow. In light of waterbirds lingering late in fall, markedly lower numbers of Western Grebes were a surprise.

Exotics were widely-reported; one, Pink-footed Goose, could possibly be a vagrant wild bird, while Egyptian Geese are certainly escaped or released captives. The possibility that releases of Chukars by hunters could lead to establishment of breeding populations in drier parts of western Nebraska exists; observers should report any occurrences of this species.

Species exhibiting various noteworthy behaviors or distributions include Franklin's Gull, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Varied Thrush, and Curve-billed Thrasher; check the species accounts.

Rarities were few, but included Harlequin Duck and Inca Dove.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADF: Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City;
BOL: Branched Oak L, Lancaster Co;
CBC: Christmas Bird Count;
Cem: Cemetery;
FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co;
GPD: Gavins Point Dam, Cedar-Knox Cos;
HCR: Harlan Co Res, Harlan Co;
LM: L McConaughy, Keith Co;
LO: L Ogallala, Keith Co;
m.ob.: many observers;
NC: Nature Center;
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge;
PL: Pawnee L, Lancaster Co;
Res: Reservoir;
RWB: Rainwater Basin, south-central Nebraska;
SCP: Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co;
SHP: State Historical Park;
SL: Sewage Lagoon(s);
SP: State Park;

SRA: State Recreation Area;
WMA: Wildlife Management Area;
WSR: Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co.

GAZETTEER

DeSoto NWR: Washington Co;
Harvard Marsh: Clay Co;
Ponca SP: Dixon Co;
Sutherland Res: Lincoln Co;
Wildcat Hills: Scotts Bluff-Banner Cos.

OBSERVERS

AK: Alice Kenitz, Gering;
BB: Bob Barry, Missouri Valley, IA;
BFH: Bill F. Huser, South Sioux City;
BG: Betty Grenon, Bellevue;
B&DW: Bruce & Donna Walgren, Casper, WY;
B&LP: Babs & Loren Padelford, Bellevue;
CG: Carlos Grande, Geneva y España;
CNK: Clem N. Klaphake, Bellevue;
CT: Chris Thody, Denton;
DH: Dave Heidt, Norfolk;
DS: Duane Sifferling, David City;
DW: Duane Wolff, Norfolk;
D&CN: Don and Colleen Noecker, Albion;
D&JP: Don & Jan Paseka, Ames;
EB: Elliott Bedows, Bellevue;
EV: Eric Volden, Grand Island;
GW: Gabe Wilson, Ogallala;
G&WH: Glen & Wanda Hoge, Alma;
HKH: Helen K. Hughson, Mitchell;
JC: John Cecil, Des Moines, IA;
JED: James E. Ducey, Omaha;
JG: Joe Gubanyi, Seward;
JGJ: Joel G. Jorgensen, Lincoln;
JJ: Jan Johnson, Wakefield;
JM: John Murphy, Kearney;
JSt: Jon Strong, Omaha;
JT: Jerry Toll, Omaha;
KCR: Kathleen Crawford-Rose, Bellevue;
KD: Kathy DeLara, Mitchell;
KH: Kris Hammond, Bellevue;
KK: Ken Kranik, Sterling, CO;
KS: Kent Skaggs, Kearney;
LE: Larry Einemann, Lincoln;
LR: Lanny Randolph, Gibbon;
L&CF: Laurence & Carol Falk, Nebraska City;
MB: Mark Brogie, Creighton;
PD: Paul Dunbar, Hastings;
PR: Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA;

PS: Phil Swanson, Omaha;
P&DD: Phyllis & Dean Drawbaugh, Scottsbluff;
RD: Roger Dietrich, Yankton, SD;
RE: Rick Eades, Lincoln;
RH: Robin Harding, Gibbon;
RSg: Ruben Siegfried, Scottsbluff;
SJD: Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA;
SV: Steve Van Sickle, Yankton, SD;
TD: Tom Dougherty, Bellevue;
TJW: T.J. Walker, Brady;
WF: William Flack, Madison;
WM: Wayne Mollhoff, Ashland;
WRS: W. Ross Silcock, Tabor, IA.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

- Pink-footed Goose:** One at Harvard Marsh 30 Jan raised the usual questions of provenance (PD, photos). Neck collar numbers have been obtained for some of the accompanying 50,000-80,000 Snow Geese and might provide interesting information. This species breeds in Greenland and there are accepted records for Newfoundland and Quebec and doubtful reports from New York and Massachusetts. Nebraska is more likely to get vagrant waterfowl from Asia than Europe.
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** Unusual numbers lingered at prime waterfowl locations into Jan, with as many as 60 at Harvard Marsh 9 Jan (PD) and 112 near Lexington 3 Jan (SJD,JC). Next reported were 7 in Thayer Co 4 Feb (LR,RH), and by 28 Feb 10,000 had arrived at Harvard Marsh (RE). Rare in the Panhandle in midwinter, one was in Scotts Bluff Co 13 Feb (KD), and close to the Panhandle, numbers peaked at 24 on 2 Jan in the LM area (SJD).
- Snow Goose:** Good numbers were reported through the period, with 5000 at Johnson L, Gosper and Dawson Cos, 3 Jan (SJD,JC), 5000 flying over Harvard Marsh 9 Jan (PD), an amazing 50,000 on the ground there 29 Jan (JGJ,PD), 16,000 in Thayer Co 4 Feb (LR,RH) and 16,000+ eastward to BOL 26 Feb (LE). Numbers at Harvard Marsh increased to 200,000 on 28 Feb (RE), and peak count in Dawson Co was 138,000 on 25 Feb (SJD). Flocks in the Panhandle generally consist of white birds, but recently more blues have appeared; one flock on 27 Feb had 10-15% blues (KD). A white bird with a neck collar at Scotts Bluff SL 27 Feb was from Queen Maud in the central Canadian Arctic (KD).
- Ross's Goose:** The 62 at Harvard Marsh were a bit early 31 Jan, no doubt having arrived with the large group of Snows there (PD); more timely, and typical of the larger numbers in recent years, were the "low hundreds" around North Platte 27 Feb (TJW).
- Cackling Goose:** Excellent counts for late fall were 1200 on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD), 1400 there the next day (SJD), and 700 in Hall Co 7 Jan (PD). Few were reported in midwinter; one in Lancaster Co 22 Jan (WF) was the only report between 11 Jan and 6 Feb.
- Canada Goose:** Best counts were on CBCs: 18,800 at LM on 2 Jan (fide SJD) and 14,644 at Scottsbluff 17 Dec (fide AK). A group of 200 identified as *interior* was found at Fremont 17 Feb (JSt); this eastern subspecies

apparently barely reaches e. Nebraska during migrations. A hybrid with Snow Goose was at LO 26 Feb (SJD).

Trumpeter Swan: About 40 were reported; best counts were the 11 on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD) and 8 in McPherson Co 21 Feb (WF). Pairs were on 3 territories along Highway 20 in Grant Co by 7 Feb (WM).

Tundra Swan: A rare migrant especially westward, a juvenile was at Sutherland Res 3 Jan (SJD,JC; photo).

Egyptian Goose: One with Canada Geese on a sandbar near Ponca SP 1 Jan (JJ) would appear to be an escaped or released bird.

Wood Duck: Rare in midwinter, 2 were at Bridgeport 9 Jan (KK), another was in Jefferson Co 11 Jan (RE), and one was at DeSoto NWR 9 Feb (BB).

Gadwall: Routine reports.

American Wigeon: A single at Harvard Marsh 9 Jan (PD) was rather late at a location where wintering does not usually occur. In recent years, several have wintered in Scotts Bluff Co; 50 were there 26 Jan (RSg). Very early migrants were 3 in Dixon Co 4 Feb (BFH) and 8 in Pierce Co 6-10 Feb (WF,JJ).

American Black Duck: Rarely reported in recent years, one was found, surprisingly, away from the Missouri Valley: a male at Harvard Marsh 9 Jan (PD).

Mallard: Best counts were from CBCs: 19,500 at LM 2 Jan (fide SJD) and 12,826 at Scottsbluff 17 Dec (fide AK). Another 20,000 were at Sutherland Res 25 Feb (SJD).

Blue-winged Teal: One in Lancaster Co 24 Feb (RE) was record early by 4 days.

Northern Shoveler: Two at North Platte SL 6 Jan (TJW) were rather late, although a few winter in the North Platte Valley most years. Rather early were 2 at Willow Creek Res, Pierce Co, 10 Feb (JJ). In recent years a few have wintered on the Alma SL; this year 10 were there 15-25 Jan (G&WH).

Northern Pintail: A good midwinter count was 50 near Alliance 22 Jan (KK); usually only single-digit numbers of birds are found with Mallards at that time. Another good count of early migrants was 300 in Thayer Co 4 Feb (LR,RH).

Green-winged Teal: An excellent late tally was the 103 at LM 1 Jan (SJD); 96 were found on the LM CBC the next day (fide SJD). This species often overwinters in small numbers.

Canvasback: Midwinter reports are few; one was in Lancaster Co 21 Jan (WF), another was in Dodge Co the same day (D&JP), and 9 were in Lancaster Co 29 Jan (JGJ,LE). As with shovelers, a few have appeared at Alma in midwinter recently, this year there were 18 on 3 Feb (G&WH).

Redhead: As with other ducks this winter, a few appeared in late Jan and early Feb after an absence of about 3 weeks; one was in Butler Co 31 Jan (WF), 12 were rather early at Alma SL 3 Feb (G&WH), one was in Colfax Co 4 Feb (WF), and 30 had arrived in Scotts Bluff Co by 6 Feb (KD).

Ring-necked Duck: Unusual in midwinter were one at Alma SL 14 Jan (G&WH), 4 in Dodge Co 21 Jan (D&JP), 12 in Lincoln 29 Jan (LE), and one at Harvard Marsh 31 Jan (PD). Rather early migrants were the 2 males in Dixon Co 4 Feb (BFH) and 67 at Chilibaba Ponds, Scotts Bluff Co, 6 Feb (KD). The latter must be a favored spot, as 120 lingered there as late as 30 Dec (P&DD).

Greater Scaup: Rather late were 15 on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD). Wintering has occurred at that location, as well as Scottsbluff SL, where 10 were found 30 Jan (AK) and 13 Feb (KD). Early were 4 in Burt Co 15 Feb (JSt).

- Lesser Scaup:** The only midwinter reports were of one at Alma SL 15 Jan (G&WH), 3 at Scottsbluff SL 30 Jan (AK), and one in Stanton Co 3 Feb (WF).
- Harlequin Duck:** A "yearling" male was found at the GPD inlet from Lewis and Clark L, Cedar Co, 27 Feb (SV; fide RD). [This bird, seen by many, was still present 26 Mar.] This is only the 4th documented record for the state.
- Long-tailed Duck:** After only a single report this past fall, 3 (possibly 4) were found this winter. An adult male at Alma SL 1 Jan (G&WH) and a male at HCR 4 Feb (KS,JM) may have been the same bird. A single was at Scottsbluff SL 30 Jan-6 Feb (AK,KD) and a juv. male was at LO 26 Feb (SJD). This species is only casual in occurrence Jan-Feb away from Keith and Lincoln Cos.
- Bufflehead:** Rather early were 2 at BOL 12 Feb (JGJ) and one in Madison Co the same day (WF). Three at Scottsbluff SL 30 Jan (AK) and one at Alma SL 3 Feb (G&WH) were unusual for midwinter.
- Common Goldeneye:** A good midwinter count was the 420 at L Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co, 29 Jan (KD). Fall and spring peaks at LO were 900 on 1 Jan and 1032 on 26 Feb (SJD).
- Barrow's Goldeneye:** None were reported; this has been a regular winter visitor recently in the North Platte Valley.
- Hooded Merganser:** Still rare in midwinter westward, 2 were in Scotts Bluff Co 6 Feb (KD); the 16 present 1-3 Jan at LM (SJD) were a good count for that location and date.
- Common Merganser:** Best count was 6545 on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD); up to 15,000 were in the LM area 1-3 Jan (SJD).
- Red-breasted Merganser:** Rather late were 6 on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD), although a few probably winter there with the hordes of Commons, and rather early were one at HCR 5 Feb (G&WH) and 3 at DeSoto NWR 15 Feb (BB).
- Ruddy Duck:** Rather late were one on the Calamus Res CBC 31 Dec (fide DH), 2 on the DeSoto NWR CBC 31 Dec (fide JT), and 5 on the LM CBC 2 Jan (SJD).
- Chukar:** One was found in Scotts Bluff Co 17 Dec (fide AK); this is likely a released bird, as there are no known established populations in the state.
- Gray Partridge:** The small population continues at WSR, where a "small flock" was seen 26 Feb (HKH).
- Ring-necked Pheasant:** Good counts were 168 on the Norfolk CBC 17 Dec (fide DW) and 150 in Dixon Co 2 Dec (JJ).
- Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Routine reports.
- Greater Prairie-Chicken:** Easternmost were 3 flyovers in Dixon Co 10 Dec (BFH) and 2 flyovers there 4 Feb (BFH).
- Wild Turkey:** A good count was the 371 on the DeSoto NWR CBC 31 Dec (fide JT), and 355 were counted there 11 Jan (BB).
- Northern Bobwhite:** While a new low count of 2 was set for the Seward-BOL CBC on 17 Dec (fide JG), and none were found in Lancaster Co for the period (LE), numbers in the North Platte Valley continue to be good, with 13 on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD) and 4 near Mitchell 9 Feb (KD).
- Pied-billed Grebe:** One during count week on the 17 Dec Norfolk CBC was rather late (fide DW).
- Horned Grebe:** The only report was of one rather late on the LM CBC 2 Jan (SJD). There are a few midwinter reports.

- Western Grebe:** A Dec cold snap markedly reduced numbers at LM this fall; only one could be found 1 Jan (SJD) and the species was missed for the first time in 15 years on the CBC the next day.
- American White Pelican:** Wintering birds were found only at expected locations: one was at LO (SJD,WF) and 3-4 were at Sutherland Res (SJD,JC,WF). Early arrivals were 8 at HCR 27 Feb (G&WH), the 5th Feb arrival date for that location in recent years.
- Double-crested Cormorant:** A small number have attempted to winter at Sutherland Res in recent years; 3 were there 3 Jan (SJD,JC), but only one remained 21 Feb (WF).
- Great Blue Heron:** Birds were standing on nests at Sutherland Res by 26 Feb (SJD); earliest nest-building is 14 Mar (*Birds of Nebraska*).
- Turkey Vulture:** Tying the second-earliest arrival date was one at Brownville 26 Feb (RE); Feb 25 is earliest. A reliable but secondhand report was received of one remarkably early in Washington Co 17 Feb (fide JT).
- Bald Eagle:** An excellent count was the 172 on the LM CBC 2 Jan (SJD), and peak was a few days later at 237 (GW, fide SJD); this is perhaps not surprising considering the 40,000 or so waterfowl also present! A pair was tending the nest at DeSoto NWR by 20 Feb (BB).
- Northern Harrier:** Given suitable conditions, harriers can occur in significant concentrations, such as the 56 at LM 25 Feb (SJD); 37 were in the same area 4 Jan (SJD,JC).
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** A new Seward-BOL CBC high count was an excellent 11, on 17 Dec (fide JG); DeSoto NWR CBC 31 Dec reported 6 (fide JT), also a good count.
- Cooper's Hawk:** Routine reports.
- Northern Goshawk:** Four were reported, a typical winter tally: one on the Norfolk CBC 17 Dec (fide DW), an immature at Bellevue 26 Dec (TD), one on the Beaver Valley CBC 2 Jan (D&JP, fide D&CN), and one near North Platte 28 Feb (TJW).
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** One of few reports away from FF was a well-studied immature at PL 2 Jan (LE).
- Red-tailed Hawk:** Six pairs were noted at breeding sites 27 Feb in the North Platte area (TJW); this is about on schedule for this species.
- Ferruginous Hawk:** Easternmost was one in Harlan Co 1 Jan (G&WH), where not unexpected in winter.
- Rough-legged Hawk:** An excellent CBC count was the 15 at Ponca SP 30 Dec (fide BFH).
- Golden Eagle:** Easternmost were an imm. in Dakota Co 10-11 Dec (BFH,PR) and another (or the same?) imm. on the Ponca SP CBC 30 Dec (fide BFH). This species is only casual this far east.
- American Kestrel:** Routine reports.
- Merlin:** Best CBC tally was the 4 on the Norfolk CBC 17 Dec (fide DW).
- Prairie Falcon:** Six were noted from cen. Nebraska eastward, including the second sighting in 13 years on the Seward-BOL CBC 17 Dec (fide JG) and one in Dodge Co 8 Dec (D&JP).
- Virginia Rail:** Two were found along the Niobrara River 10 Jan (JED), further confirming a wintering population there. Wintering in the North Platte Valley is well-known; 2 were on the LM CBC 2 Jan (SJD) and 5 at Clear Creek Marshes, Garden Co, 3 Jan (SJD).
- American Coot:** Routine reports.

- Sandhill Crane:** First migrants often arrive in late Jan, with numbers present by mid-Feb; this year, "thousands" were along the cen. Platte River by 9 Feb (CG). However, reports for early Jan are few; thus surprising were 24 near Alda 7 Jan (PD) and 12 flying over Lincoln Co 8 Jan (TJW).
- Killdeer:** The only Jan reports were from a known wintering location: 9 were found on the LM CBC 2 Jan (SJD) and a single was there the next day (SJD,JC).
- Wilson's Snipe:** Best CBC tally was the 4 at LM 2 Jan (fide SJD).
- Franklin's Gull:** Another example of the odd phenomenon of alternate-plumaged adult Franklin's Gulls turning up in interior states in midwinter in recent years was one at Sutherland Res 3 Jan (SJD,JC). Of 15 similar reports for Nebraska, all but 2 occurred since 1988. Another appeared rather early at BOL 26 Feb (LE).
- Bonaparte's Gull:** The only report was of 1-3 rather late at LM 1-3 Jan (SJD,JC). This is only the 7th Jan record, most from LM.
- Ring-billed Gull:** Best counts were 1430 on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD) and 1000 at HCR 14 Jan (G&WH).
- California Gull:** The only report was from LM, where 3-4 were found 1-2 Jan (fide SJD), fewer than usual.
- Herring Gull:** The 415 on the LM CBC 21 Jan (fide SJD) was an excellent total for Jan; peak at LM was 653 on 26 Feb (SJD).
- Thayer's Gull:** The only reports were from LM, where 5 were found on the CBC there 2 Jan (fide SJD), with 2 present 1 and 3 Jan (SJD,JC).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Three different birds were at LM 31 Dec-3 Jan, including first and second basic individuals and an adult (SJD). The 3 Jan date is the latest for this species in Nebraska; it has not yet been reported wintering. A first winter bird appeared at BOL 26 Feb (LE); there are now some 30 spring records.
- Glaucous Gull:** Two juveniles and a second-year bird were at LM 31 Dec-3 Jan, all found for the CBC there 2 Jan (fide SJD); 3 birds were still there 18 Feb (SJD). The only other report was of a juvenile at Sutherland Res 25 Feb (SJD).
- Great black-backed Gull:** This species is becoming a regular frequenter of LM; this season 2 were found. A second basic bird was there 31 Dec-2 Jan (SJD) and an adult appeared 26 Feb (SJD; photo). These are the 16th and 17th records for the state.
- Black-legged Kittiwake:** A first winter bird was rather late at GPD 6 Dec (MB); most records are in Nov.
- Rock Pigeon:** An apparent all-time CBC high for Nebraska was the 1286 on the Lincoln CBC 18 Dec (fide RE).
- Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Best count was the Scottsbluff CBC high of 50 on 17 Dec (fide AK). Other good counts were the 35 in Dorchester 12 Feb (LE), 29 all in one tree near Nebraska City 1 Jan (L&CF) and 29 on the Calamus CBC 31 Dec (fide DH). New county records were provided by 4 in Jefferson Co 28 Dec (MB), one in Sherman Co 1 Jan (WF) and 7 in Pawnee Co 25 Jan (WF). There are now only two counties without records: Loup and Keya Paha (then I can stop writing about this species!).
- White-winged Dove:** A count first was one on the Scottsbluff CBC 17 Dec (LR,RH,fide AK). This is only the second Dec record; there is one for Feb and none for Jan. Overall, this is the 43rd record for the state, all since 1988.
- Mourning Dove:** Midwinter sightings are rare away from the southeast, although a few may winter in the North Platte Valley, where 2 were found on the LM

CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD) and 10 in Scotts Bluff Co 4 Jan (AK). Casual elsewhere in the Panhandle after Oct, only the 7th such record was of one on the Crawford CBC 31 Dec (fide B&DW).

Inca Dove: One that had been present since late Nov 2005 in a Sarpy Co yard was fortuitously made known (fide CNK) and seen by many on 26 Feb and subsequently. This is the 5th record for Nebraska, all in fall and winter, and usually at feeders.

Barn Owl: A persistent call heard in Jan along the Niobrara River was attributed to this species after comparison to tapes (JED); this species is very rare in winter, with only 6 reports since 1980 statewide, one of these from the South Sioux City area but none from the northcentral or northwest.

Eastern Screech-Owl: Routine reports.

Great Horned Owl: One was on a nest at HCR 27 Feb (G&WH), about on time.

Snowy Owl: Three were reported, about an average tally for a winter season: an adult male near David City 21 Dec (DS), a juv. male at LM 1 Jan (SJD), and another single near Kearney 30 Dec (fide KS).

Barred Owl: Westernmost were singles at Ponca SP 30 Dec (BFH), on the Norfolk CBC 17 Dec (WF, fide DW), in Platte Co 22 Dec (WF), and near Seward 12 Feb (LR,RH).

Long-eared Owl: Best CBC count was 9 on the Seward-BOL CBC 17 Dec (fide JG). In all, 23 were reported from Grand Island eastward.

Short-eared Owl: Of 14 reported, a surprising 11 were counted at one location at dusk over brushy flats at LM 25 Feb (SJD). A large number of Northern Harriers were at the same location earlier in the evening.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: One was found on the Grand Island CBC 17 Dec (fide EV), and an intriguing, but unverified, report was of one heard calling in cedar canyons in se. Lincoln Co 10 Feb (fide TJW).

Belted Kingfisher: Routine reports.

Red-headed Woodpecker: A few winter rarely northward in the Missouri Valley; this winter an adult and an imm. remained at Ponca SP through the period (BFH), and 2 in Dakota Co 22 Feb (D&JP) probably wintered in the area also. Unexpected were 5 in Nance Co 29 Jan (LR,RH); this is one of only 10 midwinter records away from the southeast and Missouri River Valley.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Numbers continue to increase in the North Platte Valley; 13 were counted on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: A few winter in extreme se. Nebraska most years, where about 8 were reported during the period (m. ob.), but one in Frontier Co 22 Feb (WF) was westerly.

Downy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Hairy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Northern Flicker: Easterly red-shafted flickers were reported from the Missouri Valley in good numbers, a total of 11, more than usual (BFH,JG,B&LP,JT).

Pileated Woodpecker: Two sightings came from a new Haworth Park, Bellevue, trail adjacent to the south edge of FF 11 Dec (CNK) and 27 Feb (B&LP). Two were reported on the Omaha CBC (fide BG).

Northern Shrike: Good numbers were reported, including 7 on the Calamus-Loup CBC 31 Dec (fide DH) and 4 on the Seward-BOL CBC 17 Dec (fide JG). In late Dec and early Jan, 10 were tallied in cen. Nebraska, including 5 in Keith Co (SJD).

Loggerhead Shrike: One was reported on the Grand Island CBC 17 Dec without details; this species is rare after Nov away from extreme se. Nebraska.

Blue Jay: Routine reports.

Pinyon Jay: None were reported; usually flocks are encountered on the Pine Ridge in winter.

Clark's Nutcracker: None were reported; apparently the recent influx during winter 2004-2005 has dissipated.

Black-billed Magpie: Although seemingly absent in Harlan Co (G&WH), reports were received of 1-2 birds eastward to Ponca SP 30 Dec (BFH), Stanton Co 7 Dec (WF), Lancaster Co 17 Dec (fide JG) and 5 Jan (CT), and Jefferson Co 26 Jan (WF). There is some movement in winter most years s. and e. of the breeding range.

American Crow: Best counts were 2671 on the Calamus-Loup CBC 31 Dec (fide DH), where count highs have been in the 9000+ range, and 1200 at Harvard Marsh 28 Feb (PD). The 3 found on the Scottsbluff CBC 17 Dec was the lowest count there since 1968 (fide AK).

Horned Lark: "Thousands" were in Box Butte Co 19 Feb (WF).

Black-capped Chickadee: Reduced numbers (and the debate as to cause) continue, most notably in areas of southern Nebraska from Lancaster Co west as far as Scotts Bluff Co (m. ob.). Timing of the rapid drop in numbers that occurred around 2002-2003 coincided with the arrival of West Nile Virus, providing circumstantial evidence for a cause. Nick Komar points out, however, that the connection, while likely, may indeed be coincidental and that proof can be difficult to establish. Complicating the Nebraska picture are the high CBC numbers that have continued in the Missouri River Valley, possibly due to birds moving in during winter from elsewhere (banding studies by Betty Grenon and Rick Schmid) or some degree of immunity in southeastern birds that might have been previously exposed to West Nile Virus, as suggested by Tom Labedz. Furthermore, different parts of the state may have different species of mosquitos adapted to different habitats (riparian, woodland, prairie, etc.) that may have different propensities for carrying viruses, as noted by Tony Leukering and T.J. Walker. T.J. Walker notes also that chickadee numbers have been stable in the dry loess canyons of se. Lincoln Co, where one might assume mosquitos to be scarce.

Tufted Titmouse: Routine reports.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Routine reports.

White-breasted Nuthatch: A clear-cut difference in habitat use by different subspecies was noted in nw. Nebraska: 6 individuals belonging to the western subspecies *nelsoni* on the Harrison-Sioux Co CBC 1 Jan were all found in pines while 24 found on the Crawford CBC were all of the eastern subspecies *cookei* and were found in deciduous trees (EB).

Pygmy Nuthatch: High numbers were detected on two nw. Nebraska CBCs: 104 at Harrison-Sioux Co 1 Jan (fide EB) and 27 at Crawford 31 Dec (fide B&DW).

Brown Creeper: An excellent CBC count was the 19 at Lincoln 18 Dec (fide RE).

Carolina Wren: All reports were from the southeast except for one along the eastern Niobrara River Valley 10 Jan (JED). This and a Dec record for Scotts Bluff Co are the northwestern-most winter sightings to date.

Winter Wren: Following last year's discovery of several wintering along the Niobrara River, 2 were found again this year 10 Jan (JED). Other reports were in Dec, including one on the Norfolk CBC 17 Dec (DW), one on the Ponca SP CBC 30 Dec (fide BFH), and another that spent its time around a cattle waterer and some hay bales in Dodge Co 10-21 Dec (D&JP).

- Marsh Wren:** At known wintering locations, 2 were found on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD) and one at Scottsbluff 17 Dec (fide AK), but 2 on the Calamus-Loup CBC 31 Dec (fide DH,WF) were unexpected.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Rather late for the locations were one in Dakota Co 25 Jan (BFH), one on the Beaver Valley CBC 2 Jan (fide D&CN), and one on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD). A good count was 34 on the Lincoln CBC 18 Dec (fide RE), and 2 on the Scottsbluff CBC 17 Dec were the first on the count since 1993 (fide AK).
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** One in a Scottsbluff yard 1 Jan-13 Feb (P&DD) was only the 7th Panhandle winter record, five of which are from Scotts Bluff Co.
- Eastern Bluebird:** Good numbers lingered in the Missouri River Valley well into Dec; a new count high was the 95 on the DeSoto NWR CBC 31 Dec (fide JT) and 21 were found on the Ponca SP CBC 30 Dec (fide BFH).
- Mountain Bluebird:** Apart from one on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD), reports were of migrants returning on time: 6 were at WSR 26 Feb (HKH), one arrived at Wildcat Hills NC, Scotts Bluff Co, the same day (AK), and 2 were in Banner Co 27 Feb (WF).
- Townsend's Solitaire:** An excellent count was 157 on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD).
- Hermit Thrush:** Two reports of apparently 3 birds were suggestive of wintering: one was in a Bellevue yard 6 Feb (fide KCR), and another photographed at Schramm SP, Sarpy Co, 4 Feb was likely a different bird from one seen on a trail at about the same time (KH). Nine others were reported through 29 Dec, including a surprising 5 on the Lincoln CBC 18 Dec (fide RE).
- American Robin:** Routine reports.
- Varied Thrush:** Two were reported, which, along with one in fall, made this a great winter for this species. Three sightings were made in Scotts Bluff Co, within at most 15 miles from each other. Photos (KD) show that the first of these, a fall bird at WSR, was different from one in Scottsbluff 17 Dec, which was counted on the CBC that day and present in another yard about a half mile away for a few days prior to 17 Dec. Photos show the Scottsbluff sightings to be the same bird (KD). The final sighting was of a juvenile male at LO 26 Feb (SJD).
- Gray Catbird:** One at North Platte 6 Dec (fide TJW) was westerly and rather late; it appears to be only the 6th Dec-Feb record away from the east.
- Northern Mockingbird:** A few linger into Dec and the first few days of Jan each year; last were one in Otoe Co 21 Dec (L&CF) and another in Jefferson Co 7 Jan (RE).
- Brown Thrasher:** None were reported; lingerers usually occur in Dec.
- Curve-billed Thrasher:** The bird at the Frimann Ranch in se. Sioux Co was still present at the end of Dec (fide AK); it has been at the ranch since Oct 2002.
- European Starling:** Best count was 13,484 on the Norfolk CBC 17 Dec (fide DW); the only good thing about that is that the CBC high count is 100,000+!
- Cedar Waxwing:** Best count was a moderate 200 in Lancaster Co 3 Dec (LE).
- Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler:** Only about 18 were reported, 8 of those in Jefferson Co 7 Jan (RE), and westernmost 2 on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD) and one at LO 26 Feb (SJD). Surprisingly far north were 1-2 in Keya Paha Co 10-11 Jan (JED,WF).
- Spotted Towhee:** One on the Crawford CBC 31 Dec (fide B&DW) was quite a bit late; most depart the west before Nov. In the se., where a few winter, 4 were on the city campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln 7 Jan (LE).

- Eastern Towhee:** Lingering in the east were 2 on the DeSoto NWR CBC 31 Dec (fide JT). A few winter in the southeast.
- American Tree Sparrow:** Best count was a historically moderate 384 on the DeSoto NWR CBC 31 Dec (fide JT); highest CBC counts are in the 2000+ range.
- Fox Sparrow:** The 13 reported were in the southeast, last were the 4 in Jefferson Co 7 Jan (RE) and one apparently attempting to overwinter at BOL 29 Jan (LE). The latter is the 2nd-latest report apart from 4 wintering records.
- Song Sparrow:** Most are in the se. by CBC time, and so the 27 at LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD) was a good count.
- Lincoln's Sparrow:** Rather late and westerly was one on the LM CBC 2 Jan (SJD); there are only a few Jan records, most from the southeast, and only one of overwintering. One well seen in an Omaha yard 28 Feb (PS) is the first ever for Feb and may have wintered nearby or not far to the south.
- Swamp Sparrow:** Last were 3 at FF 23 Dec (CNK); there are a few records of wintering in the southeast.
- White-throated Sparrow:** Several were reported in Jan, as far west as the 3 on the LM CBC 2 Jan (SJD); the species is rare westward. A few may winter in the southeast in suitable years, and this winter these may have succeeded: two singles were found in Lancaster Co (LE,RE), 2 at Nebraska City (L&CF), and one in Bellevue (B&LP).
- Harris's Sparrow:** Numbers were generally low; best count was only 47 on the Seward-BOL CBC 17 Dec (fide JG). Rarer westward, 6 were on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD) and one on the Scottsbluff CBC 17 Dec (fide AK).
- White-crowned Sparrow:** Wintering is rare away from the west; one in Fillmore Co 26 Jan (WF) was unusual. A new count high was the 162 on the Scottsbluff CBC 17 Dec (fide AK).
- Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco:** The only report was of 19 on the Harrison-Sioux Co CBC 1 Jan (fide EB).
- Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco:** Best CBC tally was the 354 on the Seward-BOL CBC 17 Dec (fide JG).
- Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco:** A few Oregons were reported in the east on CBCs as is usual; easternmost was one at DeSoto NWR 31 Dec surrounded by 428 Slate-colored Juncos (fide JT).
- Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco:** Pink-sideds were reported as expected only in the west, from the Harrison-Sioux Co, Scottsbluff and LM CBCs (fide EB, fide AK, fide SJD).
- Lapland Longspur:** Best count was an excellent 4894 on the Ames CBC 29 Dec (fide D&JP). Highest ever for a CBC is 23,452 at Lincoln in 1978! One wonders just how many of these birds are out there.
- Snow Bunting:** Good numbers were reported, including 29 on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD) and 15 in Dixon Co 10 Dec (JJ). Most reports were from the northeast, as is usual.
- Northern Cardinal:** Routine reports.
- Red-winged Blackbird:** Routine reports.
- Eastern Meadowlark:** First songs were heard 23 Feb at ADF (L&CF), about on time for returning migrants.
- Western Meadowlark:** Singing was heard 6 Feb in Scotts Bluff Co (KD), presumably wintering birds tuning up for the big dance.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Last was one on the Scottsbluff CBC 17 Dec (fide AK).

- Rusty Blackbird:** The 2 reports were from the east, where the species is expected in small numbers in Dec; both were on CBCs 17 Dec. Totals of 12 were found at Seward-BOL (fide JG) and 3 at Norfolk (fide DW).
- Brewer's Blackbird:** The only report was of 5 on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD). This species is uncommon in Jan this far west.
- Common Grackle:** Not unexpected, but unusual, were 15-30 in Alma 21-30 Jan (G&WH); wintering occurs on occasion in the south and east, but in most cases only single birds are seen. Late for the west was one at Gering 22 Dec (AK), and very early (if they were not present in winter) were 1 in Scottsbluff and 10 in Bayard 20 Feb (P&DD).
- Great-tailed Grackle:** Rather late for the northerly locations were one during count week of the Calamus-Loup CBC 31 Dec (fide DH) and as many as 10 on the Beaver Valley CBC 2 Jan (WF; fide D&CN). A flock of 25-26 lingered until 5 Feb at Alma (G&WH), and a flock of about 150 present for 2 weeks prior to 27 Feb was said to have "pretty much wintered" in North Platte (TJW); wintering is still unusual in the state.
- Brown-headed Cowbird:** Rather late were 2 westerly birds on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD) and one at an Alma feedyard 1 Jan (G&WH). Rare in midwinter, one was in Seward Co 16 Jan (D&JP,LR,RH).
- Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch:** The only report was from a regular location, Chalk Buttes at WSR, where 30 were seen 16 Dec (HKH).
- Purple Finch:** Average numbers were reported, all from the east except for 2 rather westerly on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD). Best count was a moderate 25 at Ponca SP 2 Jan, only 2 of which were males (BFH).
- Cassin's Finch:** This species has occurred 3 times on the LM CBC, this year there was a single bird 2 Jan (fide CBC). A few apparently enter the North Platte Valley and Pine Ridge most winters.
- House Finch:** A new all-time Nebraska CBC high was the 348 at Scottsbluff 17 Dec (fide AK). Another excellent total was the 280 at Lincoln 18 Dec (fide RE).
- Red Crossbill:** The only high number reported was the 85 on the Harrison-Sioux Co CBC 1 Jan (fide EB). Only a few others were reported: 2 on the Crawford CBC 31 Dec (fide B&DW), one in Banner Co 28 Feb (WF), and, rare in the east, 3 on the Ames CBC 29 Dec (fide D&JP).
- Common Redpoll:** None were reported.
- Pine Siskin:** Most were as usual in the west, with best counts 162 on the Scottsbluff CBC 17 Dec (fide AK) and 100 south of Gering 15 Dec (AK).
- American Goldfinch:** A good CBC count was the 314 at Lincoln 18 Dec (fide RE).
- House Sparrow:** Routine reports.

RECENT CHANGES IN WINTER BIRD NUMBERS AT LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Paul A. Johnsgard
School of Biological Sciences,
U. of Nebraska-Lincoln, 68588
pjohnsga@unlserve.unl.edu

In 1998 I summarized historic Christmas Bird Count data for Lincoln and Scottsbluff (Johnsgard, 1998), since these two sites provide the longest continuous count records for any Nebraska locations. Eight more years of data have since accumulated, during which there has been an increasing awareness of the perceived effects of global warming (Inkley, 2004) on bird populations. The purpose of this paper is to compare the data for the past eight years (1998-2005) with earlier counts for Lincoln, two of which were first performed in the early 1900's, but which have been conducted in unbroken sequence since 1947. These data, originally available only as printed annual summaries, are now easily accessible from the web site of the National Audubon Society (www.audubon.org/bird/cbc).

METHODS

Table 1 provides a list of the bird species reported over the 1947-2005 counting period in the Lincoln count circle (NELI), including totals and yearly averages of all the birds seen during each of the two selected intervals. The final column is a comparison of the average number of individuals reported during the first (1947-1997) period with the average number reported during the second (1998-2005) period, expressed as a positive (or negative, where indicated) percent change. A few species that have been reported only once were excluded from this summary.

Obviously, the number of persons participating in these counts has gradually increased over time, as has the quality of optics and average bird-identification capabilities. As a result, even with stable populations, somewhat greater average numbers of birds reported per year can be expected to develop over time. Thus, the many minor increases in average species count totals that were tallied for the 1998-2005 period relative to the 1947-1997 period do not provide convincing evidence of actual population increases.

To compensate for this inflationary trend, only increases of at least 400 percent in average count totals were subjectively assumed by me to reflect significantly increased local winter populations. Increases of this magnitude in the average annual numbers per species reported over the last eight years relative to the 1947-1997 count period are shown in bold type in Table 1, although other species with smaller proportional increases might be noted and regarded as significant.

RESULTS

Discounting some species of which only 20 or fewer were counted over the original 51-year period such as the Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck and Great-tailed Grackle, the greatest proportional population increases since 1998 have occurred in the Eastern Bluebird (2960%), Ring-billed Gull (1970%), Yellow-rumped Warbler (1600%), Wild Turkey (1600%), American Coot (1270%), Lesser Scaup (1040%), Canada Goose (660%) and House Finch (640%).

The greatest numerical increases in average annual total counts have occurred in the Canada Goose (2986), Mallard (532), Ring-billed Gull (387), American Robin (241), Dark-eyed Junco (238), Rock Pigeon (217), and Red-winged Blackbird (179).

Species with counts showing decreases of at least 80% of the earlier period's average count are underlined in Table 1. Once again, species such as American Bittern, Osprey, Goshawk and Ferruginous Hawk, which were counted in very small numbers during the original period, were discounted. The greatest proportional declines have occurred in Lapland Longspur (100%), Brown-headed Cowbird (100%), Long-eared Owl (100%), Brewer's Blackbird (100%), Common Redpoll (100%), Evening Grosbeak (100%), Short-eared Owl (100%), Townsend's Solitaire (100%), Red Crossbill (90%), and Horned Lark (80%), Brown Thrasher (80%) and Swamp Sparrow (80%). Many of these are overwintering migrants in the Lincoln area, whose numbers are likely to be strongly affected by relative winter severity.

The greatest numerical decreases in average total annual counts have occurred in the European Starling (2028), House Sparrow (1279), Lapland Longspur (517) and Horned Lark (131). Of these, the reductions for the slightly migratory European Starling and the sedentary House Sparrow are most surprising, and are greater than declining national population trends (respectively -0.9% and -2.5% annually) would predict, according to recent North American Breeding Bird Survey population trends (www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov:80/cgi-bin/guild04/pl).

DISCUSSION

One of the possible reasons for these altered winter bird compositions in eastern Nebraska has been a series of mild falls recently, a presumed corollary of global warming. As a result, lakes and wetlands have often remained ice-free well into December, and have allowed water-dependent birds to remain in the Lincoln vicinity longer than before. Water-dependent species that were reported on the Lincoln count for the first time between 1998 and 2005 include three ducks and three sandpipers, plus the Western Grebe and Marsh Wren. There have also been substantially larger numbers of water-dependent species reported between 1998 and 2005 than had been reported in the original period. These include 12 ducks, three geese and two gulls, plus the Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, American Coot and Red-winged Blackbird. Another possible contributing factor is the creation of lakes and the use of artificial means to keep those lakes ice-free over the winter.

According to National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration data, the mean winter (December-February) temperature for Nebraska from 1947 to

1997 was 25.2°F. From 1998 to 2005, the mean winter temperature for Nebraska was 28.7°F. (<http://climvis.ncdc.naa.gov>)

Another reflection of warmer winters recently may be an increase in terrestrial birds that normally would winter in more southern states (see distribution maps in Root, 1988). The apparent increases in the Eastern Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing and Yellow-rumped Warbler may be a reflection of this trend. There are also three cases of newly reported or increasing species that are the result of regional or local range expansions. These are the successfully (!) re-introduced Wild Turkey, the northwardly expanding Great-tailed Grackle, and the House Finch, which since the early 1980's has gradually been supplanting the House Sparrow as the primary urban-adapted bird in North America. (The House Finch is declining annually at a rate of 2.5%, and the House Finch is increasing at an annual rate of 1.15%.)

Just as there have been apparent population increases resulting from southern species moving into the Lincoln area from more southerly wintering grounds, there have also been some decreases in recent species counts that are possibly the result of some relatively cold-tolerant birds shifting their wintering areas farther to the north. Possible examples include the Bohemian Waxwing, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Pine Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak, Common Redpoll and Red Crossbill. All these species are now rare winter visitors around Lincoln.

Additionally, some apparent species decreases in the Lincoln counts may be related to ecological changes such as increased local urbanization, and additionally may also reflect national population declines. These factors might help explain declines in the Horned Lark, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlarks and almost all the owls. Nearly all of these species have been exhibiting significant national population declines since the 1960's, judging from 1966-2004 Breeding Bird Survey data (www.mbr-wrc.usgs.gov80/cgi-bin/guild/04.p1).

REFERENCES

- Inkley, D. B., et al. "Global Climate Change and Wildlife in North America." *The Wildlife Society Technical Review* 04-2. The Wildlife Society, Bethesda, MD, 2004.
- Johnsgard, P. A. "A Half-century of Winter Bird Surveys at Lincoln and Scottsbluff, Nebraska." *The Nebraska Bird Review* 66 (1998): 74-84.
- Root, T. *Atlas of Wintering North American Birds: An Analysis of Christmas Bird Count Data*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988.

Table 1. Total Birds Reported & Average Species Totals/Year,
Lincoln Christmas Counts

	1947-1997 Total	1947-1997 Avg./Year*	1998-2005 Total	1998-2005 Avg./Year*	Percent Change*
Greater White-fronted Goose	12	0.24	9	1.13	380%
Snow Goose	1762	34.55	1208	151.00	340%
Canada Goose	23093	452.80	27514	3439.25	660%
Wood Duck	12	0.24	1	0.13	-50%
Gadwall	7	0.14	122	15.25	11010%
American Wigeon	15	0.29	14	1.75	500%
American Black Duck			1	0.13	
Mallard	12996	254.82	6296	787.00	210%
Green-winged Teal	41	0.80	7	0.88	10%
Blue-winged Teal	4	0.08	8	1.00	1180%
Northern Shoveler	1	0.02	16	2.00	10100%
Northern Pintail	2	0.04	1	0.13	220%
Canvasback	4	0.08	51	6.38	8030%
Redhead	25	0.49	13	1.63	230%
Lesser Scaup	49	0.96	88	11.00	1040%
Long-tailed Duck			1	0.13	
Bufflehead	32	0.63	9	1.13	80%
Common Goldeneye	335	6.57	167	20.88	220%
Hooded Merganser	2	0.04	2	0.25	540%
Red-breasted Merganser			1	0.13	
Common Merganser	2294	44.98	132	16.50	-60%
Ruddy Duck	1	0.02	12	1.50	7550%
Western Grebe			1	0.13	
Double-crested Cormorant	6	0.12	6	0.75	540%
Ring-necked Pheasant	1030	20.20	153	19.13	-10%
Wild Turkey	3	0.06	8	1.00	1600%
Northern Bobwhite	686	13.45	100	12.50	-10%
<u>American Bittern</u>	1	0.02			-100%
Great Blue Heron	41	0.80	24	3.00	270%
<u>Osprey</u>	1	0.02			-100%
Bald Eagle	9	0.18	8	1.00	470%

	1947-1997 Total	1947-1997 Avg./Year*	1998-2005 Total	1998-2005 Avg./Year*	Percent Change*
Northern Harrier	212	4.16	56	7.00	70%
Sharp-shinned Hawk	109	2.14	31	3.88	80%
Cooper's Hawk	30	0.59	21	2.63	350%
<u>Goshawk</u>	1	0.02			-100%
Red-tailed Hawk	1218	23.88	324	40.50	70%
Rough-legged Hawk	153	3.00	12	1.50	-50%
<u>Ferruginous Hawk</u>	1	0.02			-100%
American Kestrel	592	11.61	80	10.00	-10%
Merlin	17	0.33	5	0.63	90%
<u>Peregrine Falcon</u>	8	0.16			-100%
American Coot	14	0.27	30	3.75	1270%
Killdeer	57	1.12	14	1.75	60%
Spotted Sandpiper			2	0.25	
Least Sandpiper			1	0.13	
Pectoral Sandpiper			1	0.13	
Wilson's Snipe	22	0.43	1	0.13	-70%
Ring-billed Gull	1004	19.69	3255	406.88	1970%
Herring Gull	148	2.90	56	7.00	140%
Rock Pigeon **	6777	294.65	4094	511.75	70%
Mourning Dove	4465	87.55	689	86.13	-4%
<u>Barn Owl</u>	1	0.02			-100%
Eastern Screech-Owl	421	8.25	25	3.13	-60%
Great Horned Owl	496	9.73	33	4.13	-60%
Barred Owl	68	1.33	9	1.13	-20%
<u>Long-eared Owl</u>	399	7.82			-100%
<u>Short-eared Owl</u>	21	0.41			-100%
Belted Kingfisher	173	3.39	43	5.38	60%
Red-headed Woodpecker	90	1.76	6	0.75	-60%
Red-bellied Woodpecker	649	12.73	293	36.63	190%
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	47	0.92	12	1.50	60%
Downy Woodpecker	2293	44.96	593	74.13	60%
Hairy Woodpecker	506	9.92	75	9.38	-10%
Northern Flicker	1120	21.96	249	31.13	40%
Northern Shrike	24	0.47	1	0.13	-70%

	1947-1997 Total	1947-1997 Avg./Year*	1998-2005 Total	1998-2005 Avg./Year*	Percent Change*
Loggerhead Shrike	50	0.98	10	1.25	30%
Blue Jay	7122	139.65	1208	151.00	10%
Black-billed Magpie	18	0.35	2	0.25	-30%
American Crow	16982	332.98	3801	475.13	40%
<u>Horned Lark</u>	8235	161.47	246	30.75	-80%
Black-capped Chickadee	9746	191.10	1268	158.50	-20%
Tufted Titmouse	170	3.33	9	1.13	-70%
Red-breasted Nuthatch	512	10.04	85	10.63	-4%
White-breasted Nuthatch	1784	34.98	413	51.63	50%
Brown Creeper	824	16.16	205	25.63	60%
Carolina Wren	23	0.45	17	2.13	370%
Winter Wren	17	0.33	2	0.25	-30%
Marsh Wren			1	0.13	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1197	23.47	355	44.38	90%
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9	0.18	1	0.13	-30%
Eastern Bluebird	34	0.67	163	20.38	2960%
<u>Townsend's Solitaire</u>	21	0.41			-100%
Hermit Thrush			6	0.75	
American Robin	4255	83.43	2595	324.38	290%
<u>Northern Mockingbird</u>	3	0.06			-100%
<u>Brown Thrasher</u>	28	0.55	1	0.13	-80%
European Starling	243077	4766.22	21908	2738.50	-40%
<u>Bohemian Waxwing</u>	6	0.12			-100%
Cedar Waxwing	2097	41.12	892	111.50	170%
Orange-crowned Warbler			1	0.13	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	3	0.06	8	1.00	1600%
Towhee spp.	88	1.73	16	2.00	20%
American Tree Sparrow	32625	639.71	5366	670.75	3%
<u>Chipping Sparrow</u>	1	0.02			-100%
Field Sparrow	9	0.18	1	0.13	-30%
<u>Savannah Sparrow</u>	1	0.02			-100%
Fox Sparrow	10	0.20	8	1.00	410%
Song Sparrow	792	15.53	69	8.63	-40%
Lincoln's Sparrow	3	0.06	1	0.13	110%

	1947-1997 Total	1947-1997 Avg./Year*	1998-2005 Total	1998-2005 Avg./Year*	Percent Change*
<u>Swamp Sparrow</u>	28	0.55	1	0.13	-80%
White-throated Sparrow	275	5.39	58	7.25	30%
Harris's Sparrow	8123	159.27	489	61.13	-60%
White-crowned Sparrow	162	3.18	32	4.00	30%
Dark-eyed Junco	24250	475.49	5704	713.00	50%
<u>Lapland Longspur</u>	26393	517.51	2	0.25	-100%
<u>Smith's Longspur</u>	5	0.10			-100%
<u>Snow Bunting</u>	19	0.37			-100%
Northern Cardinal	4688	91.92	1042	130.25	40%
Red-winged Blackbird	9332	182.98	2897	362.13	100%
Meadowlark spp.	5658	110.94	419	52.38	-50%
Rusty Blackbird	313	6.14	35	4.38	-30%
<u>Brewer's Blackbird</u>	330	6.47			-100%
Common Grackle	620	12.16	44	5.50	-50%
Great-tailed Grackle	2	0.04	13	1.63	4040%
<u>Brown-headed Cowbird</u>	3331	65.31	1	0.13	-100%
<u>Pine Grosbeak</u>	2	0.04			-100%
Purple Finch	983	19.27	61	7.63	-60%
House Finch	981	19.24	1140	142.50	640%
<u>Red Crossbill</u>	545	10.69	5	0.63	-90%
<u>Common Redpoll</u>	52	1.02			-100%
Pine Siskin	2178	42.71	106	13.25	-70%
American Goldfinch	12853	252.02	1532	191.50	-20%
<u>Evening Grosbeak</u>	28	0.55			-100%
House Sparrow	94773	1858.29	4638	579.75	-70%

* Averages and percentages displayed in this table have been rounded to the nearest 10%.

** Rock Pigeons were not counted prior to 1975; total and average are based on 1975-1997 period.

Corrections to 2004-05 Christmas Bird Counts

A Winter Wren was incorrectly shown as having been seen on the 2004 Scottsbluff count. This should have been a Marsh Wren. Additionally, a Purple Finch was seen during count week at Scottsbluff.

2005-06 Christmas Bird Counts in Nebraska

For the first time this year, two additional counts, Ames and Harrison-Sioux Counties, were reported, bringing our total to 14 counts. The all-time high numbers reached for several species this year need to be regarded in light of that fact. We tend now to have more counts, more counters, and more hours spent counting than ever before. While this is a good thing, it is useful to remember that counting more birds does not in this case mean that there are necessarily more birds present. A look at the effort data, such as number of birds per party hour, on the Audubon Christmas Bird Count web pages (www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/hr) can be instructive.

Only 19 Snow Geese were counted this year, the fewest since 1983, when none at all were found. Numbers for this species vary dramatically from year to year: 129,415 were counted in 2002. This was the second year Cackling Geese were reported, a total of 1361 compared to 70 last year. Canada Goose numbers were the highest since 1996. The 96 Northern Pintails are the highest since 157 in 1966. Wild Turkeys saw their first decline since 1998, although they are still doing well with 1075 counted.

The Bald Eagle total (350) was the highest ever, but last year's total was 341 from fewer counts. Sharp-shinned Hawks were recorded in the highest numbers ever: 40 in all. The Rough-legged Hawk count of 83 was the highest since 1996. The Red-tailed Hawk total of 472 is the second highest ever; there were 518 in 1994. Of this year's total, 98 were seen at DeSoto and 84 were from Omaha, prompting one observer to comment both on the proximity of those counts to the Loess Hills migration flyway and on the high percentage of participants on those two counts who are also counters at the hawkwatch at the Hitchcock Nature Center north of Crescent, Iowa.

The American Coot total of 11, 10 of which were at Scottsbluff, was the lowest in 10 years. Eight gull species were found, all from Lake McConaughy and Calamus-Loup.

The Rock Pigeon count of 4731, over one quarter of which came from the Lincoln count, was the highest ever and would be even without including totals from the two new counts. Eurasian Collared-Doves were first reported on Christmas counts in 2000 with 7 counted; this year's total was 172. It will be interesting to watch the White-winged Dove expansion in future CBC totals. The first White-winged Dove reported on a Nebraska CBC came this year from Scottsbluff.

Even without the two new counts, the Red-bellied Woodpecker number of 433 is the highest ever. The Downy Woodpecker total of 526 is the highest since a count of 575 in 1988. Hairy Woodpeckers also hit a new high of 111. No Pileated Woodpeckers had been seen on Nebraska CBCs since 1 in 1999: 2 were found on the Omaha count this year.

The overall total of Black-capped Chickadees is back to what could be considered normal: 1068 this year, up from 699 in 2004 and 774 in 2003. However, individual counts in the central part of the state (Beaver Valley, Branched Oak, Calamus-Loup, Grand Island, Lincoln, Norfolk) still have counts which are much lower than in the past. For example, the count from Lincoln this year was 56, which is twice the previous year's 27, but still dramatically lower than Lincoln's average yearly count of 322 from the 1980s and 1990s.

American Crows dropped to less than half of last year's 9870 total (4145) but such fluctuation is not unusual with this species. Pygmy Nuthatch numbers reached a new high of 131, 104 of those contributed by counters from the new Harrison-Sioux Co. count.

The Eastern Bluebird total also reached a new high: 305, 95 of which were counted at DeSoto. The yearly average count of Eastern Bluebirds since 2000 is 187; the yearly average from the 1980s and 1990s is 40. This year's Townsend's Solitaire total was the highest ever at 209. Five of this year's 7 Hermit Thrushes were found on the Lincoln count; groups that large are unusual on Christmas counts. This year counters at Scottsbluff found the first-ever Varied Thrush for a Nebraska CBC.

No Bohemian Waxwings were found this year; last year 562 were seen on 3 counts. Harris's Sparrow numbers were up: 128 this year compared to 52 in 2004 and 75 in 2003. The White-crowned Sparrow count was the highest ever at 193.

More Lapland Longspurs were counted this year (5253) than in the previous 14 years combined, and 4894 of those were from the Ames count. This is by no means an all time high, however. (See the Winter Field Report.)

The count of 6 Brown-headed Cowbirds is the lowest since 1997. House Finches were first recorded on Nebraska Christmas counts in 1964, with a total of 16 counted, all at Scottsbluff. We hit a new high for the species this year, with 1250 counted on 13 counts.

2005-06 CBC Participants

Ames Larry Einemann, William Flack, Robin Harding, Rita Jensen, Clem Klaphake, Steve Lamphere, Elizabeth Mulliken, Jerry Mulliken, Colleen Noecker, Don Noecker, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Don Paseka (compiler), Janis Paseka, Lanny Randolph, Jerry Toll (16)

Beaver Valley Belle Esau, William Flack, Mitzi Fox, Janece Mollhoff, Wayne Mollhoff, Colleen Noecker, Don Noecker (compiler), Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Ramona Theiman, Ted Theiman, Elsie Wheeler (12)

Branched Oak- Seward Paul Dunbar, Rick Eades, Larry Einemann, Mike Ellis, Joseph Gubanyi (compiler), Tom Labedz, Ted LaGrange, Marli Ockander, Mary Steinbeck (9)

Calamus-Loup Donna Christiansen, William Flack, Robin Harding, David Heidt (compiler), Lyla Koehlmoos, Lanny Randolph, Duane Wolff (7)

Crawford Elliott Bedows, Bob DeLara, Kathy DeLara, Jim Gibson, Randy Lawson, Ruben Siegfried, David Smith, Bruce Walgren (compiler), Donna Walgren, Jack Watson (10)

DeSoto Bob Barry (compiler), Carla Delucchi, Nelli Falzgraf, Clem Klaphake, Steve Lamphere, Sue Mattix, Jim Meyer, Rosalie Noteman, Michele Parde, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Sandy Reinken, Paul Roisen, Jerry Toll, Patricia Williams, Betty Young (16)

Grand Island Gordon Backer, Felipe Chavez-Ramirez, Anton Curtis, Dan Glomski, Blake Hatfield, Dan Kim, Ron Kruse, Ray Kusek, Connie McCartney (compiler), Jim Meyer, Vicky Orr, Jerry Pekas, Luis Ramirez, Patricia Smith, Vern Throop, Eric Volden, Chuck Witter Feeder Watchers: Dottie Aubushon, Kathy Aubushon, Leah Clark, Gay Crandell, Lewis Hilligas, Helen Siem (17 + 6 feeder watchers)

Harrison/Sioux Co. Elliott Bedows (compiler), David Smith, Bruce Walgren, Donna Walgren (4)

Lake McConaughy Henry Armknecht, Elliott Bedows, Stephen J. Dinsmore (compiler), Robin Harding, Bill Huntley, Todd Jensen, Bette Klaphake, Clem Klaphake, Peter Kondrashev, Kay Niyo, Lanny Randolph, Tommie Rogers, Ross Silcock, Mark Urwiller, Zack Urwiller (20)

Lincoln Linda R. Brown (compiler), Jackie Canterbury, Kevin Degarmo, Barbara DiBernard, Rick Eades, Larry Einemann, Joe Gubanyi, Paul Johnsgard, Michelle Johnson, Tim Knott, Thomas E. Labedz, Pete Maslowski, John Miller, Ken Reitan, Carol Rustad, Rachel Simpson, Brooke Stansberry, Emily Thaden, Joyce Vannier, Lyle Vannier, Gertrude Wood (21)

Norfolk Norma Brockmoller, Ed Brogie, Mark Brogie, Donna Christiansen, William Flack, Cody Hartman, David Heidt, Tony Jacobsen, Raymond E. Kincanon, Lyla Koehlmoos, Tyler Sherman, Paul Timm, Jan Uttecht, Duane Wolff (compiler), Bonnie Wylie (15)

Omaha Elliott Bedows, Ed Chance, Emma Chance, Dave Christiansen, David Crawford, Sharon Draper, Nelli Falzgraf, Betty Grenon (compiler), Neil Holstein, Clem Klaphake, Jim Kovanda, Sandy Kovanda, Catherine Kuper, Steve Lamphere, Terry Lassek, Urban Lehner, Sue Mattix, Rosalie Noteman, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Kathleen Pyper, Dick Rasmussen, Jean Richter, Kathleen Rose, Rick Schmid, Steve Schmitt, Eric Scholar, David Smith, Greg Stoiber, Michele Widhalm, Pat Williams, Chunhui Yi, Penny Zahurones (35)

Ponca Bill Bossman, Jeff Fields, Bill Huser (compiler), Jan Johnson, Richard Johnson, Bill Morris, Paul Roisen, Jerry Von Ehwegen, Eric Wiebe (9)

Scottsbluff Bob DeLara, Kathy DeLara, Dean Drawbaugh, Phyllis Drawbaugh, Ann Duey, Jan Foster, Robin Harding, Michelle Hoff, Helen Hughson, Alice Kenitz (compiler), Lanny Randolph, Al Reyer, Cindy Reyer, Bonnie Schoen, Ruben Siegfried (15)

2005-2006 Christmas Bird Counts

	Ames	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak-Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison-Sioux Co.
Gr. White-fronted Goose							1	
Snow Goose	2					9		
Ross' Goose			4			1		
Cackling Goose			100	2		2	29	
Canada Goose	223		432	2,240		1,672	9,967	
Trumpeter Swan				cw				
Wood Duck							4	
Gadwall				10				
American Wigeon							1	
Mallard	3,820	184	13	4,952	6	2,000	4,562	
Blue-winged Teal								
Northern Shoveler								
Northern Pintail								
Green-winged Teal				1				
Casvasback								
Redhead	1							
Ring-necked Duck								
Greater Scaup								
Lesser Scaup	1							
Bufflehead				1				
Common Goldeneye				570		193	34	
Hooded Merganser								
Common Merganser	1			51		72		
Red-breasted Merganser								
Ruddy Duck				1		2		
Ring-necked Pheasant	19	12	15	2	17	9	35	
Sharp-tailed Grouse				1				
Greater Prairie-Chicken		36		51				
Wild Turkey	67			16	139	371	179	
Northern Bobwhite	1		2		5	2	20	
Pied-billed Grebe								
Horned Grebe								
Western Grebe								
American White Pelican								
Great Blue Heron	4							
Bald Eagle	2	12	1	52	4	28	11	

2005-2006 Christmas Bird Counts

	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Ponca State Park	Scottsbluff	Total
Gr. White-fronted Goose	49	1					51
Snow Goose	8	cw					19
Ross' Goose	2						7
Cackling Goose	1,200		1			27	1,361
Canada Goose	18,800	3,291	1,504	3,800	67	14,644	56,640
Trumpeter Swan	11						11
Wood Duck						1	5
Gadwall	30				15		55
American Wigeon	6	2	1			120	130
Mallard	19,500	573	119	37	508	12,826	49,100
Blue-winged Teal		6					6
Northern Shoveler						5	5
Northern Pintail	55		2		25	14	96
Green-winged Teal	96	7		30		9	143
Casvasback	1					1	2
Redhead	6						7
Ring-necked Duck	12			2		8	22
Greater Scaup	15						15
Lesser Scaup	23		2			4	30
Bufflehead	73						74
Common Goldeneye	1,307	9	1	36	3	68	2,221
Hooded Merganser	17	1					18
Common Merganser	6,545		1	107	8	1	6,786
Red-breasted Merganser	6						6
Ruddy Duck	5						8
Ring-necked Pheasant	4	17	168		8	9	315
Sharp-tailed Grouse							1
Greater Prairie-Chicken	20						107
Wild Turkey	2		7	178	6	110	1,075
Northern Bobwhite	13		16			cw	59
Pied-billed Grebe			cw				
Horned Grebe	1						1
Western Grebe	cw						
American White Pelican	1						1
Great Blue Heron	7	12	1			1	25
Bald Eagle	172	3	9	24	18	14	350

2005-2006 Christmas Bird Counts

	Ames	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak-Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison-Sioux Co.
Northern Harrier		4	1	5	1	3	23	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	2	11	2		6	4	
Cooper's Hawk			3	1		1	2	
Northern Goshawk		1						
accipiter sp.			4					
Red-tailed Hawk	23	16	51	21	5	98	42	
Ferruginous Hawk								
Rough-legged Hawk	1	3	3	6	8	5	26	5
Buteo sp.			2					
Golden Eagle				cw				
American Kestrel	6	2	8	4	4	24	21	
Merlin			2		1			
Prairie Falcon			1	1	1		1	1
large falcon sp.	1							
hawk sp.			1					
Virginia Rail								
American Coot							1	
Killdeer								
Wilson's Snipe							1	
Bonaparte's Gull								
Ring-billed Gull				8				
California Gull								
Herring Gull				2				
Thayer's Gull								
Lesser Black-backed Gull								
Glaucous Gull								
Great Black-backed Gull								
Rock Pigeon	111	10	306	94	74	345	877	2
Eurasian Collared-Dove			7	29	16		33	8
White-winged Dove								
Mourning Dove	cw		7		1		1	
Eastern Screech-Owl	1		4		1	2	13	
Great Horned Owl	2	1	10	2	cw	2	4	1
Snowy Owl								
Barred Owl			3			6		
Long-eared Owl			9			2		

2005-2006 Christmas Bird Counts

	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Ponca State Park	Scottsbluff	Total
Northern Harrier	7	1	2	1	7	2	57
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	3	2	3		2	40
Cooper's Hawk	1	4	2	2			16
Northern Goshawk			1				2
accipiter sp.	1	2	2			2	11
Red-tailed Hawk	24	24	49	84	24	11	472
Ferruginous Hawk	3						3
Rough-legged Hawk	1	4	5		15	1	83
Buteo sp.			1			1	4
Golden Eagle	1				1		2
American Kestrel	31	3	11	10	9	30	163
Merlin			4			1	8
Prairie Falcon	2		1				8
large falcon sp.							1
hawk sp.							1
Virginia Rail	2						2
American Coot						10	11
Killdeer	9	1				2	12
Wilson's Snipe	4		1			1	7
Bonaparte's Gull	1						1
Ring-billed Gull	1,430						1,438
California Gull	3						3
Herring Gull	415						417
Thayer's Gull	5						5
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2						2
Glaucous Gull	3						3
Great Black-backed Gull	1						1
Rock Pigeon	69	1,286	395	831	27	304	4,731
Eurasian Collared-Dove	28		1			50	172
White-winged Dove						1	1
Mourning Dove	2	95	2	27	3		138
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	3	1	3			31
Great Horned Owl	10	12	4	3		1	52
Snowy Owl	cw						
Barred Owl		2	1	12	1		25
Long-eared Owl	3		3		2		19

2005-2006 Christmas Bird Counts

	Ames	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak-Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison-Sioux Co.
Short-eared Owl							2	
Northern Saw-whet Owl							1	
owl sp.								
Belted Kingfisher	1	1	1	2		4	2	
Red-headed Woodpecker						2		
Red-bel. Woodpecker	21	4	61	2		94	11	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			1					
Downy Woodpecker	26	14	61	10	7	114	33	4
Hairy Woodpecker	8	1	7	5	6	16	4	3
Northern Flicker	24	5	68	14	5	142	37	
Pileated Woodpecker								
Loggerhead Shrike							1	
Northern Shrike		1	4	7	4			3
Shrike sp.		1						
Blue Jay	5	5	124	5	5	143	49	
Black-billed Magpie			2		35		16	
American Crow	21	16	476	2,671	78	131	67	25
Horned Lark	39	4	37	82	187	1	17	64
Black-cap. Chickadee	32	5	14	7	79	214	21	26
Tufted Titmouse						5		
Red-breasted Nuthatch			11			1	2	5
White-br. Nuthatch	24	15	69	4	33	108	22	6
Pygmy Nuthatch					27			104
nuthatch sp.					1			
Brown Creeper	5		2			5	17	
Carolina Wren						2		
Winter Wren			1			2		
Marsh Wren				2				
Golden-cr. Kinglet	6	1	10			6		
Eastern Bluebird	6		80	9		95	8	
Mountain Bluebird								
Townsend's Solitaire				1	7			27
Hermit Thrush	1							
American Robin	47	37	1,905	444	5	90	77	61
Varied Thrush								
Northern Mockingbird			1					

2005-2006 Christmas Bird Counts

	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Ponca State Park	Scottsbluff	Total
Short-eared Owl							2
Northern Saw-whet Owl							1
owl sp.		1					1
Belted Kingfisher	7	6	2	1	1	4	32
Red-headed Woodpecker		2		49	2		55
Red-bellied Woodpecker	13	56	27	123	21		433
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1		1			3
Downy Woodpecker	35	53	31	113	17	8	526
Hairy Woodpecker	13	7	10	27	4 cw		111
Northern Flicker	51	13	16	74	17	37	503
Pileated Woodpecker				2			2
Loggerhead Shrike							1
Northern Shrike	2		2		2	4	29
Shrike sp.							1
Blue Jay	11	118	47	137	54	64	767
Black-billed Magpie	62				1	34	150
American Crow	8	214	119	94	222	3	4,145
Horned Lark	676				327	186	1,620
Black-capped Chickadee	40	56	54	426	82	12	1,068
Tufted Titmouse				41			46
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	8	2	3		5	40
White-breasted Nuthatch	17	64	40	209	53	1	665
Pygmy Nuthatch						cw	131
nuthatch sp.							1
Brown Creeper	6	19	1	7	1 cw		63
Carolina Wren		5		5			12
Winter Wren			1	1	1		6
Marsh Wren	2					1	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	34		23		2	83
Eastern Bluebird	7	27		52	21		305
Mountain Bluebird	1						1
Townsend's Solitaire	157					17	209
Hermit Thrush		5		1			7
American Robin	2,291	247	6	53	56	380	5,699
Varied Thrush						1	1
Northern Mockingbird							1

2005-2006 Christmas Bird Counts

	Ames	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak-Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison-Sioux Co.
European Starling	4,996	231	2,287	1,296	295	1,853	1,242	22
Cedar Waxwing	12		89	67		162	26	
Yellow-rumped Warbler			1					
Spotted Towhee			1		1			
Eastern Towhee						2		
Am. Tree Sparrow	37	158	239	92	280	384	295	24
Fox Sparrow			3					
Song Sparrow	7	1	16	2	4	23	1	
Lincoln's Sparrow								
White-th. Sparrow	3					cw	1	
Harris' Sparrow	cw		47	6		15	22	
White-crowned Sparrow							7	
sparrow sp			38					
Dark-eyed Junco	138	58	431	51	57	429	552	148
Lapland Longspur	4,894	7		50	5			
Snow Bunting				2				
Northern Cardinal	39	4	90	5		127	77	
Red-winged Blackbird		714	22	26		380	22	
meadowlark sp.	5		34	26		19	115	
Yellow-headed Blackbird								
Rusty Blackbird			12					
Brewer's Blackbird								
Common Grackle							1	
Great-tailed Grackle		10		cw			1	
Brown-headed Cowbird						1		
blackbird sp.			22	200				
Purple Finch	2		20			75		
Cassin's Finch								
House Finch	5	53	51	48	1	9	94	
Red Crossbill	3				2			85
Pine Siskin		2	12	6				50
American Goldfinch	19	104	309	269	64	132	203	1
House Sparrow	117	84	123	12	109	256	1,678	102
TOTAL SPECIES	48	37	60	56	38	57	59	23
INDIVIDUALS	14,831	1,819	7,782	13,548	1,580	9,897	20,616	777

2005-2006 Christmas Bird Counts

	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Ponca State Park	Scottsbluff	Total
European Starling	2,197	3,593	13,484	3,504	1,170	997	37,167
Cedar Waxwing	31	5		106	86		584
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	3					6
Spotted Towhee		2	1				5
Eastern Towhee				1			3
American Tree Sparrow	162	271	220	149	45	92	2,448
Fox Sparrow		2					5
Song Sparrow	27	3 cw		10		12	106
Lincoln's Sparrow	1						1
White-throated Sparrow	3	8		4			19
Harris' Sparrow	6	15	2	14		1	128
White-crowned Sparrow	24					162	193
sparrow sp							38
Dark-eyed Junco	598	503	364	896	100	463	4,788
Lapland Longspur	172				125		5,253
Snow Bunting	29						31
Northern Cardinal	26	116	70	168	45	1	768
Red-winged Blackbird	1,405		26	1	2	162	2,760
meadowlark sp.	79		16	45		3	342
Yellow-headed Blackbird						1	1
Rusty Blackbird			3				15
Brewer's Blackbird	5						5
Common Grackle		1	1				3
Great-tailed Grackle							11
Brown-headed Cowbird	2		3 cw				6
blackbird sp.							222
Purple Finch	2	14	30	1	9		153
Cassin's Finch	1						1
House Finch	172	280	42	95	52	348	1,250
Red Crossbill							90
Pine Siskin	50	2		cw		162	284
American Goldfinch	234	314	191	215	53	85	2,193
House Sparrow	190	496	1,015	646	111	348	5,287
TOTAL SPECIES	96	58	59	54	46	60	129
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	58,872	11,926	18,146	12,487	3,427	31,877	207,585

2005-06 CBC Site Data

	Date	Species	Individuals	Observers	Low Temp	High Temp	Sky (am/pm)	Rain	Snow
Ames	29 Dec	48	14,831	16	28	36	fog/cloudy	pm	none
Beaver Valley	2 Jan 06	37	1,819	11 + 1	29	43	cloudy	none	none
Branched Oak/Seward	17 Dec	60	7,782	9	17	26	clear	none	none
Calamus-Loup	31 Dec	56	13,548	7	25	40	cloudy/pt. cloudy	none	none
Crawford	31 Dec	38	1,580	10	30	54	partly cloudy	none	none
DeSoto-Boyer	31 Dec	57	9,897	16	31	40	partly cloudy	none	none
Grand Island	17 Dec	59	20,616	17 + 6	15	24	cloudy/partly cloudy	none	none
Harrison-Sioux Co.	1 Jan 06	23	777	4	36	41	cloudy	am/pm	none
Lake McConaughy	2 Jan 06	99	58,872	15 + 5	30	52	clear	none	none
Lincoln	18 Dec	58	11,926	21 + 8	10	22	clear	none	none
Norfolk	17 Dec	59	18,146	15	8	38	partly cloudy	none	none
Omaha	17 Dec	54	12,487	35	15	25	clear	none	none
Ponca S.P.	30 Dec	46	3,427	9	32	33	cloudy	none	none
Scottsbluff	17 Dec	60	31,877	15	8	16	cloudy	none	light
Total		129	207,585	200 + 20					

Additional observer numbers at Beaver Valley, Grand Island, Lake McConaughy and Lincoln are feeder watchers.

The Nebraska Bird Review is published quarterly by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Inc., as its official journal, and is sent to members not in arrears of dues. Annual subscription rates (on a calendar-year basis only): \$15 in the United States, \$18 in Canada and \$30 in all other countries, payable in advance. Single copies are \$4 each, postpaid, in the United States, \$5 in Canada, and \$8 elsewhere. Send orders for back issues to Mary Lou Pritchard, NOU Librarian, c/o University of Nebraska State Museum, W-436 Nebraska Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0514.

Memberships in the NOU (on a calendar-year basis only): Active, \$15; Sustaining, \$25; Student, \$10; Family Active, \$20; Family Sustaining, \$30; Life, \$250. Send dues and subscription requests to Betty Grenon, NOU Treasurer. (see address below) Contributions to the NOU are tax deductible.

Send manuscripts and notes on bird sightings to Janis Paseka, Editor. (see address below) Send quarterly bird reports to Ross Silcock. (see address below)

President and Newsletter Editor: Dave Heidt, 1703 Hilltop Drive, Norfolk, NE 68701-2031; daveh@northeastcollege.com

Vice-President: Urban Lehner, 15526 Pierce Circle, Omaha, NE 68144; urbanity@hotmail.com

Secretary: Kevin Poague, 379 S. 46th St., Lincoln, NE; kpoague@audubon.org

Treasurer: Betty Grenon, 1409 Childs Road East, Bellevue, NE 68005; grenon925@aol.com

Librarian: Mary Lou Pritchard, 6325 O Street #515, Lincoln, NE 68510

Directors:

Steve Lamphere, 3101 Washington St., Apt. 98, Bellevue, NE 68005; kingfisher65@aol.com (2006)

Jan Uttecht, Box 823, Stanton, NE 68779; jautek@stanton.net (2007)

Loren Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005; lpd1frd@juno.com (2008)

Records Committee Chairman: Mark Brogie, Box 316, Creighton, NE 68729; mbrogie@esu1.org

Editor of The Nebraska Bird Review: Janis Paseka, 1585 Co. Rd. 14 Blvd., Ames, NE 68621; paseka@tvsonline.net

Occurrence Report Compiler: Ross Silcock, P.O. Box 57, Tabor, IA 51653; silcock@rosssilcock.com

Breeding Bird Atlas Project and Nest Records Coordinator: Wayne Mollhoff, 2354 Euclid St., Ashland NE 68003; wmollhoff@netscape.net

NOU Website: <http://rip.physics.unk.edu/NOU/>

Nebraska Birdline: c/o Josef Kren 402-721-5487, ext. 6490, or 800-642-8382, ext. 6490, or birdsne@yahoo.com

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Inc.
3745 Garfield
Lincoln, NE 68506-1028

NONPROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lincoln, NE
Permit No. 756

Address Service Requested

Table of Contents

NOU Annual Treasurer's Report for 2005.....	2
Winter Field Report, Dec. 2005 - Feb. 2006 by W. Ross Silcock	4
Recent Changes in Winter Bird Numbers at Lincoln, Nebraska by Paul A. Johnsgard	16
Corrections to 2004-2005 Christmas Bird Count data	23
2005-2006 Christmas Bird Counts in Nebraska	23
Subscription and Organization Information	35